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ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAMS RECEIVED BY AND SENT FROM
THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

It is proposed, from now onward, to print in the *Notices from the Lick Observatory* copies or translations of the most important astronomical telegrams received by and sent from the LICK Observatory. Telegrams received and sent during the years 1888–1896 are preserved in a special file at Mount Hamilton. All telegrams received here which announce any astronomical news of importance have been regularly sent to the San Francisco and San José newspapers by mail; and, in many cases, they have also been telegraphed. Astronomical news of importance, based on observations at Mount Hamilton, is always telegraphed to the Central Office of Astronomical Telegrams for America (the Harvard College Observatory) in cipher; and also communicated, by telegraph or otherwise, to the Associated Press and to the United Press agents in San Francisco. Whenever it seems desirable special notices will be sent to the members of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

MOUNT HAMILTON, April 16, 1896.

DISCOVERY OF COMET *b*, 1896, BY DR. LEWIS SWIFT.

PASADENA, [Thursday] April 16, 1896.*

To LICK Observatory, San José.

Comet Monday. Ascension three thirty-nine, north fifteen forty, from circles. Bright, short tail. Very slow westerly.

Collect.

LEWIS SWIFT.

The telegram indicates that the position refers to Monday, April 13th. As a matter of fact, it relates to Wednesday. The comet was found by Mr. PERRINE, and observed by Messrs. HUSSEY and CAMPBELL, about 8^h 30^m P. M. of Thursday. At 9^h 23^m P. M., a telegram was received from Boston, which proved to be a translation into cipher of Dr. SWIFT's telegram printed above. Three of its cipher-words were distorted. At any rate, it was received too late to have been of any use, as no observations of the comet could have been made here after about 9 P. M.

* Received at LICK Observatory, April 16, 1896, 9.27 A. M.